

## THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1852.

The notice on our first page, of the S. I. Steam Company, appeared as an advertisement in the Alta California of the 6th March, and subsequent numbers of that paper. We reproduce it as an item of intelligence in which our readers will take a deep interest. We have ever advocated the introduction of Steam Navigation among the islands as an enterprise not only very desirable in itself considered, for the comfort and convenience of passengers, but also as one which would ultimately pay well to the proprietors or stock-holders. We find these views confirmed by the report of Mr. Glen, after personally examining the subject, and collecting all the information to be had on the spot.

To say that we feel a deep interest in the success of the enterprise, is scarcely coming up to the measure of our desires. We regard it as one of the beneficial effects of which we are most fully persuaded. Affording, as it will, the means of speedy and comfortable transit from one port to another, it will also have a tendency to increase agriculture, by providing a regular mode of transportation for supplies to those points where they will be most in demand, and find the best market. Business will be created that does not now exist. Locomotion will become a pleasure, and not a matter of dread. Trips will be made from choice, which are now only taken from the direst necessity. In short, we regard it as the commencement of a new era, that will give new life and energy to inland trade, and open many sources of wealth that do not now exist.

Another beneficial result of successful inter-island steam navigation would doubtless be, to hasten in the period when steamers will ply regularly between Honolulu and San Francisco, and also the still grander enterprise, which is bound to be undertaken, of a line across the Pacific. They are kindred objects, each assisting the other; and the successful establishment of one, will afford encouragement to the rest. Navigation among the islands could not long be successfully carried on without producing a necessity for a connecting link with our neighbors. The isolation in which we have, till recently, slumbered, exists no longer; a new, and we trust a prosperous, destiny lies before us, the development of which is gradually opening to our view. The introduction of steam is an evidence, as well as an instrument, of this development; and we hail it as one of the indications of Providence that we are to be linked to the rest of the world in its progress towards high aims and more startling attainments in all that is useful to man and ennobling to humanity.

In the incipient stages of this enterprise we are happy to find His Majesty giving it that countenance and support which its importance warrants and which comes within the range of the ability of the government to afford. In this respect, as in almost every other, it has preceded, or at least kept pace with, public opinion, and the requirements of the times. To foster and sustain it, by the incidental aid which can be rendered to it, we have no question will continue to be the care of the government. Its more substantial resources must and will be furnished by foreign capital, for which the company alluded to has been formed, and in which attempt they will without a doubt, be successful.

We refer our readers to the article in question who, with, will welcome the first boat sent hither under the auspices of this company, as they will also the first that shall pay a visit on its way to the marts of Asiatic commerce, emphatically to us and to California, the GREAT WEST.

A BOOK AS A BOOK.—The risibles of our Island community have been unusually excited, since the last arrival from California, by the appearance among us of a pamphlet entitled, "The Sandwich Islands as they are, and not as they should be." This remarkable production is from the pen of a Mrs. E. M. W. Parker, and was published in San Francisco by Messrs. Burgess, Gilbert, and Still of that city.

We have had some very hearty laughs over its pages, for which we are under obligations to the writer; but what shall we say of the work as a whole? Why simply this, that more gross libel in all its important assertions, was never penned. It is a late tirade of abuse, aimed almost exclusively at Dr. Judd and the missionaries,—calumnies in its charges, disgusting in its details, and altogether unworthy of a moment's serious consideration. After an attentive perusal, its barefacedness stands out so prominently in almost every paragraph, that we have no fears of its imposing upon any one who has common intelligence. The antidote accompanies the poison. Its stale slang is too nauseating to repeat, even for denial, and we shall take leave of it with a quotation from a letter written by a gentleman in San Francisco who forwarded a copy to a friend in this city.

"Mrs. Parker, of song and myth notoriety, has just published a pamphlet which I send you enclosed, that for indelicacy, absurdity, and gross misrepresentation, goes ahead, decidedly, of all former outbursts of the 'lovers of truth.' Were the author a man, instead of this thing in petticoats, I should feel a pretty strong inclination to publish him a liar, and scoundrel, and see the thing through; although a woman that can pen such language, (to say nothing of its untruth), ought not to find fault if insulted with abusive language in return, at the corner of every street. I have been requested by several among the right sort here to publish a review of this thing, in one of the papers, but have so far declined, on the plea that I did not believe that ten decently informed persons could be found that would believe ten lines of her vulgar lies. I may, however, change my views on this score." Pau.

## A QUERY.

MA. EDITOR.—I notice upon Tracy's outline Map of the World, an island called "Necker," about in Lat. 24° and Long. 165°; or about 2° of Lat. from Kauai, and 4° of Long., or less than 400 miles distant. Will you, or some of your numerous correspondents please give us some account of the above-named island. Is it inhabited, size, &c.? If not inhabited, what is the nearest inhabited island to the Hawaiian group; by whom inhabited, how large, &c. By giving an answer to the above queries, you will gratify a constant reader of your valuable paper.

March 25, 1852.

There is nothing in the earth so small that it may not produce great things.

At the particular request of Capt. Morice, we give place to the following correspondence. Capt. MORICE, &c., &c., Commander ship Harpooner.

DEAR SIR,—Your note of yesterday has just been handed me, expressing your kind feelings for myself and the officers of the Vandalia, and asking as an additional favor to you, that I will grant you the privilege of sending a few "little letters" to the crew who assisted you in your troubles on the night of the 6th of Feb. Your kind feelings are very sincerely appreciated and I cannot certainly object to your wish being gratified, but allow me to say that I do not consider it at all necessary for you to enter into this expense, as I deem all that has been done as no more than is required of us in the execution of our duty.

With my kind regards and thanks to Mrs. M. for the interest expressed by her for all of us.

Believe me very sincerely

Your friend and obdt. serv't.

W. H. GARDNER.

Vandalia, Thursday evening, March 25.

U. S. Ship "Vandalia,"

Honolulu, March 29, 1852.

To Capt. Lewis Morice,

British bark Harpooner.

SIR,—We the undersigned Petty Officers of the U. S. S. Vandalia, feel proud in being made the instrument of conveying to you the heartfelt thanks of our ship's company, for your great kindness in furnishing them, in so handsome a manner, with the means of having so good a dinner. We appreciated our "Pot Pie" Sir, but were more gratified by the thoughtfulness and delicacy which prompted the gift.

We cannot wish you another misfortune, but were you again in distress, it would do your heart good to see how we would work for you.

Accept Sir, our fervent wishes that you may soon again be enabled to prosecute your voyage, reaping the golden harvest which your gentlemanly conduct and benevolent actions deserve.

Most respectfully, Sir, your obdt. serv'ts.

F. G. ROWE, and others.

Honolulu, 7th April, 1852.

MA. EDITOR.—At the meeting in the Bethel on last Sunday forenoon, the Rev. S. C. Damon mentioned the fact of his having received a donation of \$200 from the King and his Privy Council, to assist in defraying the current expenses of the Church. The Rev. gentleman stated it as his opinion, that the sums due to laborers for the late repairs, ought to be paid by those who receive the benefit. He therefore thought fit to appropriate the King's present exclusively for the relief of Americans in destitute circumstances, and the American Hospital. Please Mr. Editor, can you inform me why this money should be devoted entirely for the assistance of Americans, and poor John Bull left to shift for himself? while it is a well-known fact the English residents in Honolulu and its vicinity, contribute largely to assist support the said Bethel.—I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

AN ENQUIRER.

We have not ascertained, from the Rev. gentleman alluded to above, his reasons for devoting the \$200 to Americans, exclusively, but the presumption is, that they were so devoted, because originally presented to Americans, on board the Vandalia, for services rendered in drilling the native troops in the Fort. They were, however, returned, because they could not be kept, consistently with the Constitution of the United States. See Mr. Damon's letter to the Sec. of the Privy Council.

(Cont.)

Honolulu, 30th March, 1852.

To Hon. L. ANDREWS,

Secretary of Privy Council,

I take pleasure in acknowledging your note of yesterday's date, accompanying the Resolution of the Privy Council, together with the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200). This amount I shall endeavor, conscientiously, to devote to the purpose suggested in the Resolution.

American seamen, and American citizens are often cast upon Hawaiian shores, in a distressed condition and are unable to obtain relief from the Consul, in accordance with the Laws of the United States; hence, inasmuch as the laws of the U. S. will not allow this money to be distributed agreeably to the original intention of His Majesty, and the Privy Council, it would appear highly proper, to devote the same for the aid of citizens of the U. S. who are found in distressed circumstances in Honolulu. It was only last Saturday that I met with an instance of this description, at a sailor boarding-house. I made arrangements for his accommodation at the U. S. Hospital, becoming personally responsible for his support, and was intending to appeal to Americans in Honolulu, but having in former times, so often been compelled to make similar appeals, I consider this appropriation as most opportune.

You will do me the favor, in behalf of distressed American seamen, and American citizens, to present my sincere acknowledgments to His Majesty and the Members of the Privy Council.

Yours truly,

(Signed.) SAMUEL C. DAMON,

Seaman's Chaplain.

## DRIVING WHALERS AWAY.

MA. EDITOR.—Being "about town" some, and hearing a good deal said about driving whalers away from Honolulu by a tax on water, pilotage, and so forth, I have made some enquiry among them about it. Now I do not say but the price of water may be too high, perhaps; but formerly, merchants used to charge 3 or 5 cents per barrel for water, and the captain had to roll his cask through the town and pump it himself! Now, any number of casks can be rafted right up to the house, and filled with good, pure, spring water, which has cost the government a good many thousand dollars to provide for them; and because a charge is made for it, it is that going to prevent whale-ships from coming to Honolulu? I don't believe it. It's the RUM that drives them off; and the lack of it that takes them to Hilo.

If the Maine liquor law was in force here, or a duty of \$10 per gallon were put on the miserable drunkards drink, and the importers taxed \$10,000 a-year, for bringing the detestable stuff into the country, then we should hear no more of a tax on water driving away whalers.

If whalers are driven away from Honolulu, it is the IMPORTERS of RUM that drives them away. He is the enemy of the country; and his abominable traffic is as immoral as injurious.

Put the above in your pipe and smoke it! Down with the RUM traffic say I.

## COMMON SENSE.

As we do not "smoke," a "pipe," we shall merely print the above and pass it over to those of our readers who do.

## THE LATE A. W. PARSONS.

It is with unfeigned regret that we are called upon to record the decease of Alfred W. Parsons of Lahaina, in Honolulu on Sunday the 4th inst. A man of natural abilities of more than an ordinary character, of generous impulses and a kind disposition, he has left behind him among all classes, the kind remembrance of his many virtues. A resident of Lahaina for the last three years, at first the District Justice of that town, afterwards her representative in the Legislature, and finally District Attorney for the island of Maui, in all these situations he manifested much ability, and endeared himself to the community, both native and foreign, by the strict sense of justice which he displayed, and by the disinterestedness which he exhibited in the exercise of all his duties.

His departure was so sudden, that his friends might almost feel as if the accents of his voice were still sounding in their ears, and the sight of his features scarcely faded from their eyes. May it be hoped that those he has left behind may find consolation in the assurance that of the many who have known him, there is not one who does not regard his memory with kindness, and sympathize with their affliction in his loss.—Com.

Lahaina, March 25th, 1852.

EDITOR OF POLYNESIAN.—SIR: I would beg to call your attention to the manner in which the passport laws of this kingdom are evaded by placing the name of any party desirous of leaving, on a vessel's articles. I cannot believe it was the intention of the Legislature to render these laws a nullity which is the case at present. Long established residents are constantly departing in this manner to the serious injury of those remaining here. You will lay the community under great obligations by taking notice of this in your paper.

We commend the above to the serious consideration of the government, as an evil which needs to be corrected. The principal object of the passport law was, to prevent people from leaving the islands without paying their debts; and no honest man will resort to the mode above indicated, to get away without a regular passport.

A community like this, where so many are passing and repassing, certainly requires to be protected from the dishonest, who are ever on the alert to defraud. The law was designed to afford this protection and would have that effect were its provisions regarded. We have heard of many cases of its open violation, where loss has been sustained by persons residing here. These, together with the mode of evasion alluded to by our correspondent, call for more vigilance on the part of those whose duty it is to see the law executed, and perhaps for some additional legislation in order to secure the end sought.

A LANTERN, bearing the word Halehili (Palace), was presented to His Majesty on the 5th inst. in the name of D. D. Miller, Esq., of New York, Lamp Manufacturer.

The King's Minister of Public Instruction received the present of a Lamp, which had been sent out to him from the same manufacturer.

NAVAL.—The U. S. S. Vincennes, Capt. Hudson, was reported on the 10th of March, off the mouth of the Columbia River. The Vincennes sailed hence on the 10th of January, bound for the Columbia, but visited Puget's Sound, previous to going into the River.

AUCTION SALES.—This day, by F. W. Thompson, a large and general assortment of merchandise, at his sales room; and on Monday, furniture, &c. at the same place.

On Tuesday, H. Sea will sell Dry Goods and other merchandise, at his sales room.

On Friday, A. P. Everett will sell, at his Auction Room, a great variety of merchandise, for particulars of which, see posters.

SUPERIOR COURT.—APRIL TERM. Chief Justice LEE and associate Justice ANDREWS on the Bench.

After the court was opened on the 5th inst., and before proceeding to the call of the docket, A. B. Bates, Esq., senior member of the bar, addressed the court, announcing the death of A. W. Parsons, Esq., a member of the bar. He further stated that at a meeting of the bar on the morning of that day the following resolutions had been adopted, which he moved the court might be entered of record, and that in accordance with the usual custom, the court adjourn to Tuesday morning, at 10 o'clock.

The resolutions were ordered to be entered of record, and the court then adjourned.

"At a meeting of the Bar of Oahu, held on the fifth inst., the following resolutions were adopted: 'Resolved.—That in the death of Alfred W. Parsons, Esq., the islands have lost a most valuable citizen and the Hawaiian Bar one of its most honorable and successful members. He was a man whose kindness of heart, whose generosity and total disregard of all mercenary considerations were proverbial and whose integrity was without a blemish.'

Resolved.—That we extend to the bereaved family of the deceased our sincere condolence and heartfelt sympathy.

Resolved.—That the foregoing resolutions shall be presented to the Superior Court with a request that they be entered of Record and a copy of the same be sent by the Clerk to the afflicted Widow and Son of our lamented friend, and that they be published in the Polynesian and Argus."

(Signed) HENRY RHODES.

April 6th.—James A. Burdick vs. John Disher. This was an action brought to recover possession of a lot in Nuuanu Valley, and damages for its wrong detention. The facts of the case were that one John McCormack leased the lot from Harry Howard in August 1850, for the term of seven years, and erected a cake and beer shop thereon. Afterwards McCormack sub-leased the same to the defendant, Disher, neither of these leases were entered of record in the Register's office as required by law, and subsequently the plaintiff, Burdick, bought the lot of Harry Howard in fee, and had his deed of purchase duly recorded.

On the part of the defence it was argued that the occupation of the premises by Disher, was notice to all the world of his having some title there.

in, and that Burdick, having that notice ought not to be allowed to oust the defendant on the technical ground that his deed was first recorded. To this it was answered by the plaintiff's counsel that the status of the land was clear and positive on this point and must prevail.

Chief Justice LEE in his charge to the jury said: "Whether the plaintiff had notice or not of the lease to McCormack, previous to his purchase, can make no difference with his legal right to recover in this suit. If McCormack failed to get his lease recorded within the time required by law, and Burdick's deed was previously recorded, then the lease is invalid as against the subsequent deed. The statute, which is clear and positive, says: that all leases, deeds, etc., shall be recorded; and that no conveyance of real estate not recorded within thirty days after its execution, shall be valid as against a subsequent deed of the same estate previously recorded. That is just the case in hand. The lease was not recorded until this morning, while the deed was made and recorded some months since, and hence the lease is invalid as against Burdick. We see no way open by which the defendant can escape. It is a very hard case indeed, to say that when the subsequent purchaser has notice of a previous unrecorded conveyance, he may get his deed recorded and dispossess the first party, but such is the plain and unequivocal language of the law, and as it is we are constrained to pronounce it. To what the law ordains we must submit, and though we might wish it otherwise, yet it is not our province to alter or amend the statutes. It is with us to administer the laws as we find them, leaving it with the legislature to correct their faults."

The jury after a short absence rendered a verdict in favor of the plaintiff, giving him possession of the premises, and awarding him damages to the amount of six and a quarter cents, one juror dissenting.

After the rendering of the verdict, the Chief Justice remarked that this case being the first which had ever arisen under our Registry Act, and consequently of much importance, the Court had taken the opinion of the bar, during the absence of the jury as to the correctness of its charge, and that the bar was of the unanimous opinion, including both the counsel for the defence, that the charge was sound and the construction given to the statute the proper one.

C. C. Harris, Esq. Atty for plaintiff.

J. Montgomery, and A. B. Bates, Esquires, for defendant.

R. N. Beauvais, vs. Porter & Ogden. This case was briefly as follows:—The defendants were charged with receiving the brig Widgeon and cargo on consignment from the master of the vessel, he having put into Honolulu, (on a voyage from Sydney to San Francisco), where his vessel was condemned. And also with sacrificing the cargo which was mostly coals, and not perishable, by a sale at public auction, without awaiting the instructions of the owner, Beauvais, who was in San Francisco anxiously looking for the Widgeon's arrival. For this illegal sale of the cargo etc., the plaintiff claimed damages in the sum of eight thousand six hundred dollars.

In the course of the plaintiff's evidence he was compelled to offer a settled account between the parties, to show what goods the defendants had received.

The defendants' counsel moved for a nonsuit, on the ground that the plaintiff himself has produced a settled account between the parties covering the whole of this transaction, and consequently is barred from opening that account and claiming damages in this action.

Chief Justice LEE delivered the opinion of the court, in substance as follows: The genius of the law is opposed to all stoppels, and does not favor the doctrine of admissions, verbal or written, when they go to preclude a party from an investigation of the truth. But, to say that when an account is once settled between parties, and the balance paid, we may open it again, and go into the matter de novo, without first showing fraud or some mistake, would be to establish a most mischievous doctrine—one that would introduce alarm and uncertainty into all the business transactions of life; and one, equally opposed to both law, and equity. When accounts have once been settled between parties, courts will not unravel them unless for the most urgent reasons.

In this case the account has been settled, and the balance paid by plaintiff, and there is no show of any fraud, mistake, or accident in the settlement. The plaintiff without any deception on the part of the defendants, without duress, and with a full knowledge of all the facts and circumstances of the case, has seen fit to settle this account; and for this court to say that this settlement is not final and conclusive upon the parties, would be to run counter to reason and the long established principles of the law. When fraud or mistake is shown, then clearly we may go behind the settlement and correct the errors, but that is not the case in hand.

Motion for nonsuit granted.

John Montgomery and S. Burbank, Esqrs., for Plaintiff.

A. B. Bates and Jas. D. Blair, Esqrs., for Defendants.

Peirce Hegarty vs. A. B. Howe and A. J. Cartwright, Jr.

This was a case involving long accounts between the parties, and was referred.

J. Montgomery, Esq., for Plaintiff.

A. B. Bates, Esq., for Defendants.

E. Devonchelle vs. J. Mann.—This was an action on account and the defendant's Counsel came into court and confessed judgment for the full amount of plaintiff's demand, \$131.

R. H. Bowlin, Esq., for Plaintiff.

C. C. Harris, Esq., for Defendant.

The King vs. Ephraim Coffin.—The prisoner was indicted for passing a forged order for \$157 75c., purporting to be signed by S. Perry and drawn on Stephen Reynolds. The defence was drunkenness on the part of the accused at the time of passing the order.

The Court charged the jury that drunkenness was no excuse for the commission of a crime, and they rendered a verdict of guilty, recommending the prisoner to the mercy of the Court. The Court then sentenced him to two years imprisonment at hard labor.

A. B. Bates, Esq., for the crown.

J. D. Blair, Esq., for the prisoner.

The King vs. Gasterkorne.—This was an indictment for an assault and battery on Capt. Denker with a dangerous weapon. The defence was an alibi. Verdict, Not Guilty.

A. B. Bates, Esq., for the crown.

J. Montgomery, Esq., for the prisoner.

(Concluded next week.)

## MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

House of Nobles. 1st day.

April 7th, 1852.

The House met at Mr. Young's residence at 11, A. M.

Prayer having been offered by Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Young took the chair.

The Minutes of the last session of the 21st June, 1851, were read and confirmed.

A. G. Thurston was appointed Secretary. Loren Andrews " Chaplain.

The Rules of the House were read. Mr. Young's residence was appointed as the place for the sessions of the House.

The House then adjourned till 8th at 11 o'clock A. M.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Pursuant to the call of His Majesty, the Members of the House of Representatives assembled at Mauna Kiliha at 4 P. M. on Wednesday, April 7th.—Eighteen members present.

The House was called to order by Mr. E. Hunt, clerk, who called on the members to present their Credentials.

The House then proceeded to ballot for a speaker, and G. M. Robertson, Esq. was chosen by a large majority.

The following officers were then chosen, for the present session.

E. Hunt, Clerk of the House.  
Geo. Lee, Engrossing Clerk.  
Rev. E. W. Clark, Chaplain.  
W. C. Parke, Sergeant at Arms.

Mr. Marshall moved that the Rules and Orders of the last session be adopted for the present. Passed.

The members present were then sworn in by the speaker.

Mr. Funk moved that a committee of three be appointed to inform His Majesty that the House was organized, and ready to proceed to business.

Mr. Rhodes moved as an amendment that the Committee consist of seven. Passed.

The speaker named the following, members of the said committee, viz.

F. B. Marshall.  
Z. Kauwau.  
G. Rhodes.  
F. Funk.  
J. Richardson.  
Kamapilekane.  
Naipakaiki.

On motion of Kamakau, the House adjourned to Friday evening, at 8 o'clock, the room being occupied in the day by the Superior Court.

April 8th 1852.

## HOUSE OF NOBLES.

The House met pursuant to adjournment. The Chaplain being absent prayer was offered by Mr. Armstrong.

His Majesty appointed Tuesday, April 13th, at 12 M. for the opening of Parliament in the Stone Church.

The House then adjourned to such time as the President shall appoint.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

April 8th, The House met pursuant to adjournment, twenty-two members present.

The Report of the Committee appointed to wait on His Majesty, was read and adopted, informing the House that His Majesty would open the Parliament on Tuesday at noon, at the stone church.

The speaker informed the House that two members had taken their seats for the district of Kapaemahu on Maui, both having presented credentials in due form, and asked what action the House would take with reference to the matter.

Mr. Funk moved that in the absence of any petition to the contrary, the member whose certificate bore the earliest date should be considered entitled to his seat until the committee on elections should decide the question. Passed.

Several of the member's credentials were found to be informal; but it was resolved that no action should be taken on them until the Committee on elections should be appointed.

Mr. Rhodes moved that Sec. 50 of the Rules should be so amended as to require all Committees to keep a written record of their proceedings. Passed with an amendment by Mr. Funk, that all documents should be copied in cases where the originals could not be retained.

Mr. Funk moved that the Sergeant at arms be instructed to provide 2 tables and chairs for the use of Reporters: passed.

Mr. Kekaulahao moved that the Polynesian be furnished to the members during the session.

Mr. Rhodes moved an amendment that the Argus also be furnished. The speaker explained that the members were entitled by law to the Polynesian without any charge to the House.

Mr. Richardson seconded the motion of Mr. Kekaulahao, as the members were entitled to it by law, and thought that those members who wished the Argus should subscribe for it: passed.

Mr. Funk moved that the Sergeant at arms be instructed to provide the members with stationery as usual: passed.

Mr. Ukeke made a complaint that the Inspectors of Elections had refused to give him his certificate though he was duly elected. Complaints were also made of the conduct of the Inspectors of Elections in other districts by Messrs. Funk and Rhodes.

Mr. Rhodes moved that the Governor of Oahu be informed by the House of the conduct of the Inspectors.

Mr. Richardson moved as an amendment, that the House address a letter to the Inspectors of Election in that district, enquiring who was elected, and that Ukeke retain his seat till the Com. on Elections shall decide the case.

Mr. Richardson's amendment carried. House adjourned to Friday evening at 7 o'clock.

## DESTRUCTIVE CONFLAGRATION! HONG KONG DESTROYED!

LOSS ESTIMATED AT \$4,000,000!!

From the Alta California of March 6th, we transfer the following to our columns. As a result of the destruction of that town, we fear the whalers intending to resort there for their spring recruits, may be disappointed in their expectations.

The barque Wm. Watson, arrived yesterday from Hongkong, bringing intelligence of a most disastrous conflagration in that city.

Nearly all the city is consumed. Hundreds of lives have been lost. Every Newspaper office has been destroyed. The barque brings no file, and we are dependent on the officers of the vessel for the few particulars which we subjoin.

The fire occurred on the 26th December, and commenced in the China Bazaar. It spread with fearful rapidity among the Bamboo houses of the Chinese and soon communicated to the finest part of the city, becoming perfectly irresistible.

The loss of life among the Chinese was dreadful. The number that perished had not been ascertained. One colonel of an English regiment lost his life in the attempt to blow up a building and arrest the flames. Also a lieutenant belonging to H. B. M.'s ship Hastings was killed by the falling timbers

of a house which had been blown up. A sergeant of sappers and miners met a similar fate.

The public market was destroyed and much suffering was experienced for a few days after the fire. The Governor and Sir Wm. Bowen had convened the Council, and among other resolutions adopted for the public welfare were one forbidding the construction of Bamboo houses. The Chinese houses were to be built of stone, or of the materials used in the construction of the Victorian houses.

All the printing offices were destroyed, with the finest edifices and public buildings in Hongkong.

We have not yet been able to procure further particulars of this disaster.